



**National Tourism Alliance**

## **POLICY POSITION**

### **Noise Levy**

**Position**

The aircraft noise levy operating at Sydney and Adelaide airports must be administered efficiently. Potential abuse of the scheme through "double dipping" must be eliminated.

A system should be established to provide for registration on property titles to advise that renovation work conducted under the scheme has been completed.

**Rationale  
And  
Background**

At various times since the introduction of the Aircraft Noise Levy scheme at Sydney Airport - and more recently at Adelaide Airport - there have been reports of interference with renovations undertaken under the scheme. It is acknowledged that there has been only one confirmed instance and a second alleged instance of air conditioning units having been removed from renovated premises. Nevertheless the potential for such abuse needs to be eliminated.

Consequently, a system should be established to provide for registration on property titles to advise that renovation work under the scheme has been completed. Otherwise the potential exists for future householders to lodge claims for noise insulation works on premises where this work has already been carried out.

A specific title registration system would ensure that airlines, their passengers and the Government could not be held liable for the costs of replacement work on properties where there had been interference with the original work. There is little comfort afforded by the fact that the present Ministerial Direction related to the Aircraft Noise Levy scheme does not allow for a second claim for renovations following completion of work under the scheme. Ministerial Directions can be amended relatively easily.

Further, airlines and their passengers should not be liable for additional costs under the scheme to rectify faulty or sub-standard work performed or materials used under the scheme. To date the scheme administrators have been required to replace sub-standard woollen insulation material used in about 1,100 properties in Sydney. The total cost of replacement was about \$15 million.

Any additional funds required to repair faulty works or replace sub-standard materials should be sourced from consolidated revenue and not via ingoing imposition of the noise levy.